



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, April 7, 2011
SUMMARIZED MINUTES
Granite Reef Senior Center, Room 8
1700 N. Granite Reef Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

PRESENT: Howard Myers, Chair
James Heitel, Vice Chair (arrived at 5:06 p.m.)
Carla, Commissioner
Melinda Gulick, Commissioner
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner
Deke Joralmon, Commissioner
Fred Klein, Commissioner
Gerald Miller, Commissioner
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner
Linda Whitehead, Commissioner

ABSENT: BJ Heggli, Commissioner

STAFF: Kroy Ekblaw
Scott Hamilton
Claire Miller
Bill Murphy
Robbin Schweitzer

GUESTS: Carla Benkosky
Peter Corbett, AZ Republic
Con Englehorn
David Hay
Joni Millavek
Marg Nelssen
Mike Nolan
Jane Rau

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Myers called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present as noted above.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to speak.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Whitehead requested that in her statement under Commissioner Comments the word "argued" be changed to "suggested". Commissioner Miller requested that his comment be changed to say that he "reported on the possibility of funding." Chair Myers said that his name was misspelled in several places.

COMMISSIONER JORALMON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 3, 2011 MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MILLER, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF NINE (9) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR HEITEL WAS NOT YET PRESENT. COMMISSIONER HEGGLI WAS ABSENT.

5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Mr. Nolan gave an update on Conservancy activities including pathfinder contact numbers, nature guide activities, hikes, community activities, and speaking opportunities.

6. NAMING PROPOSAL AND POLICY

A. Trail in the Brown's Ranch Trailhead Area to be named for Jane Rau

Mr. Ekblaw briefly talked about the dedication that Jane Rau has had to the protection of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, the desert character of Scottsdale and other areas throughout the Valley and the state of Arizona. She has and will continue to consult with staff on potential opportunities for the area and trail design. ADA accessibility will be a key focus of the design of the interpretive trail as well as the trailhead. The Commission will be provided with ongoing updates. Experts in archeology, et cetera, are invited to provide input on the physical location, signage, and trail content.

COMMISSIONER HUBBELL MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF NAMING THE FUTURE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL AT BROWN'S RANCH TRAILHEAD FOR JANE

RAU. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GULICK, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF TEN (10) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER HEGGLI WAS ABSENT.

B. Amend Policy

Mr. Ekblaw explained that the amendment to the procedures in the Guidelines for Naming Features in the City of Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve was intended to clarify that the Preserve Director will coordinate with the MSPC Chair, the nominee, and other pertinent parties before forwarding a nomination recommendation to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission.

COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVED TO REVISE THE GUIDELINES FOR NAMING FEATURES IN THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE IN REGARDS TO THE NOMINATION PROCEUDRE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KLEIN, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF TEN (10) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER HEGGLI WAS ABSENT.

7. STAFF REPORTS

- **Land acquisition of Arizona State Land Department**

Mr. Ekblaw gave an update on the progress of Parcel 2 and Parcel 3, noting that the due diligence process was underway and is expected to be completed by the end of April, with the appraisal sometime in June. He mentioned meeting with State Parks and briefly explained the appraisal and application process.

- **Tom's Thumb**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the timeline for construction of Tom's Thumb leading up to an anticipated May 2012 opening.

- **Brown's Ranch**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the timeline for construction of Brown's Ranch leading up to an anticipated 2013 opening.

- **North Area Planning**

Mr. Hamilton said that access control is being looked at in preparation for improvements that can be installed when the slump goes into place. Aerial photographs are being reviewed section by section and updated with various existing routes and they will be useful in future discussions about potential modifications to the trail plan. Discussion ensued regarding the slump area, ATV vehicle usage regulations and markers, and the joint McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

- **Financial Update**

Mr. Ekblaw distributed and reviewed information outlining the differences between the Preserve Tax, the Bed Tax, and the Sales Tax. He mentioned the bond issuance on February 9, 2011 and noted that certain Preserve General Obligation Bonds and Preserve Revenue Bonds were refunded on April 6, 2011 for an estimated savings of approximately \$5.5 million that will benefit future Preserve acquisitions.

- **History Update**

Mr. Murphy provided an update on the history project, noting that the oral interviews are ongoing and historical photos are being taken for the historical preservation being done together with the library. In response to a question by Commissioner Carla, he talked about the possibility of pursuing grant opportunities.

Ms. Miller highlighted volunteer activities and updated the Commission on the progress of the Paradise Mine repairs and measures that are being taken to deter any future disturbances.

Mr. Hamilton distributed the most current trail count information.

8. QUARTERLY REPORT

Chair Myers asked for comments on the Quarterly Report. Grammatical corrections were made.

COMMISSIONER KLEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBELL, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF TEN (10) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER HEGGLI WAS ABSENT.

9. COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Discussion ensued regarding the matrix that was created by Chair Myers, including comments about zoning, exploring alternatives that would benefit the Scottsdale Preserve, drainage issues, the desert greenbelt, and options for acquiring additional funds for the Preserve. It was the consensus of the Commission to make individual comments on the matrix and return it to staff to be compiled by the task force into a final document.

10. COMMISSION WORKPLAN

In response to a question by Commissioner Carla, Mr. Murphy noted that City Council has agendaized a discussion about all Boards and Commissions. The discussion is expected to include standardization of bylaws and information packets and the number of members on the Commission.

The Commission discussed the recommended work plan and agreed to add the unaccomplished projects from last year's work plan.

COMMISSIONER CARLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2011/12 WORKPLAN WITH THE ADDITION OF THE UNACCOMPLISHED PRIORITY ITEMS FROM THE 2010/11 WORK PLAN. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WHEELER, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF TEN (10) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER HEGGLI WAS ABSENT.

11. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Mr. Ekblaw pointed out areas that the Commission will need to review and prioritize for acquisition in 2012, including areas that would make the Preserve contiguous with the National Forest. Recommendations will be strategically made based on available funding. The application should be initiated with the State at the end of the summer, which allows time to wait for appraisals and initiate the zoning case. Discussion ensued regarding acquisition strategies and funding.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hubbell updated the Commission about the upcoming construction related to the addition of a building and tower on top of Thompson Peak. Mr. Ekblaw said that he would gather more information about the project and meet with the Fire Department about the safety of transporting materials and doing construction during fire season.

13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR MAY 2011

Mr. Murphy noted that the next meeting will be followed by a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the State Land Use Permit. He reviewed items agendized for the regular meeting, which include the north area staffing plan activities, the Commission work plan, a report from the Land Resource Task Force, APS power line status, and DDC Phase III update. Mr. Ekblaw said that to conserve time during the regular meeting, the Land Acquisition Strategy could be moved to the June meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.